

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a system having at least one application, a computer implemented method for executing a search from within an application, the computer implemented method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

selecting one or more search terms within a first application at a computer;

activating the one or more search terms within the first application;

performing a search based on the one or more search terms with a second application at the computer, wherein the second application is of a different type than the first application, and wherein the computer ~~remaining~~ remains in a context of the first application ~~and not displaying~~ without initiating display of the second application to a user; and

returning search results to the first application, wherein returning search results generated by the second application to the first application further comprises at least one of:

copying at least a portion of the search results into the first application;

pasting at least a portion of the search results into the first application;

deleting a portion of the search results;

saving at least a portion of the search results; and/or

displaying search results when a mouse arrow is moved over ~~the~~ selected search data in the first application.

2. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method as defined in claim 1, wherein the first application is selected from the group of: ~~word processor; spreadsheet;~~ database, image processor; web browser; text recognition; email client, and operating system.

3. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method as defined in claim 1, wherein ~~the step of selecting~~ the one or more search terms ~~further comprises the step of~~ automatically selecting the one or more search terms pursuant to pre-defined rules.

4. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of configuring the search.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method as defined in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ searching according to a context of the one or more search terms.

6. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the search results.

7. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of presenting the search results to the user without the user having to exit the first application.

8. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method as defined in claim 1, wherein the search is performed without the user having to exit the first application.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method as defined in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of the~~ manipulating, by a user, the search results within the first application.

10. (Original) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method as defined in claim 14, wherein the search data comprises at least one of: text; a remote file; an image; a sound file, an MPEG file; and metadata.

13. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method as defined in claim 14, wherein the step of activating further comprises the step of configuring the search by selecting at least one search location.

14. (Currently Amended) In a computer system connected to a network, a computer implemented method for performing a search over the network by a user, the computer implemented method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

selecting search data within a first application in the computer system;

activating the search data within the first application;

performing a search on the search data in the background with a second application, wherein the second application is of a different type than the first application, and wherein the user is not required to open the second application or view a window of the second application;

returning search results generated by the second application to the user within the first application, wherein the user views the search results within the first application, and wherein returning search results generated by the second application to the user within the first application further comprises at least one of:

copying at least a portion of the search results into the first application;

pasting at least a portion of the search results into the first application;

deleting at least a portion of the search results;

saving at least a portion of the search results; ~~and/or~~

displaying the search results when a user moves a mouse arrow over ~~the selected search data~~ in the first application.

15. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 14.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) In a computer system that includes one or more applications that can each be activated by a user, a computer implemented method for performing a search from within an application without requiring the user to open a browser application, the computer implemented method comprising:

selecting search data within a context of a first application at a computer;

searching a network using a second application based on the selected search data, wherein the second application is of a different type than the first application, and wherein the second application operates in a background and is not displayed to the user, wherein the computer keeps a user in a context of the first application; and

presenting search results to the user within the context of the first application, wherein presenting the search results to the user further comprises at least one of:

copying at least a portion of the search results into the first application;

pasting at least a portion of the search results into the first application;

deleting at least a portion of the search results;

saving at least a portion of the search results; and/or

displaying the search results when a user moves a mouse arrow over ~~the previewed data~~ in the first application.

19. (Currently Amended) In a computer system that includes applications that can be activated by a user, a computer implemented method for performing a search from within a first application, wherein the first application is of a type other than a browsing application, the computer implemented method comprising:

identifying search data that has been selected in the first application, the search data including text;

activating the search data by providing the selected search data to a second application comprising a browsing application, wherein the browsing application performs a search on a computer network using the search data and ~~wherein the~~without initiating display of an interface of the browsing application is ~~not displayed~~ to a user;

receiving search results from the browsing application; and

presenting the search results in a context of the first application, wherein the user is not required to switch from the browsing application to the first application; wherein presenting the search results further comprises at least one of:

copying at least a portion of the search results into the first application;

pasting at least a portion of the search results into the first application;

deleting at least a portion of the search results;

saving at least a portion of the search results; ~~and/or~~

displaying the search results when a user moves a mouse arrow over the ~~previewed~~ data in the first application.

20. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein a limit is placed on the number of search results to be returned.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) Computer readable medium having instructions for performing the computer implemented method of claims 18.

23. (Previously Presented) Computer readable medium having instructions for performing the computer implemented method of claims 19.

24. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the search performed by the second application considers a profile of one or more users in performing the search.

25. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the search is performed prior to receiving any user input selecting the one or more search terms through the first application.

26. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the search results are automatically inserted into an interface of the first application.

27. (New) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the context comprises content found within a document opened by the first application and from which the one or more search terms are identified.

28. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first application is selected from the group of: word processor and spreadsheet.

29. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first and second application are integrated within an existing application.